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Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (L) & Chirag Shetty

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SATWIK AND CHIRAG RISE TO WORLD NO 1 BADMINTON DOUBLES RANKING

Badminton players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Tuesday became the first Indian doubles pair to achieve top ranking

PATHFINDERS JOIN RARE CLUB OF ELITES

After capturing historic gold at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last Sunday, the pair climbed two spots to achieve the feat. They joined the elite list of former world number ones from the country, including legendary Prakash Padukone, Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth. The duo has undoubtedly lifted the discipline (men's doubles) in the country over the years

CONSISTENT RUN BEHIND RISE TO THE TOP

- Their rise is due to their hunger and desire to win. In the process, they have achieved many firsts over the years. With experience, they have found a new gear and that is evident in their matches.
- They have captured four titles — Asian Games, Korea Open, Indonesia Open and Swiss Open — this year so far | P15

Seven

BWF WORLD TOUR TITLES THEY HAVE WON SO FAR IN THEIR CAREER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

13-YR-OLD CASE

Delhi L-G gives sanction to prosecute Arundhati Roy

ASHISH SRIVASTAVA @ New Delhi

DELHI Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on Tuesday granted the police sanction to prosecute author Arundhati Roy and a Kashmiri law professor Sheikh Showkat Hussain for allegedly conspiring against the state in a 13-year-old case.

They were booked in 2010 for making provocative speeches on Kashmir at an event in the city following a complaint by social activist Sushil Pandit. The charges framed against them in the 2010 First Information Report included Section 196 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and various section of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

CrPC Section 196(1) mandates seeking prosecution sanction from the state government for offences like hurting religious sentiments, hate crimes, sedition and promoting enmity. The Delhi government sat on it for years but after the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill recently gave the L-G powers to take the call, he issued prosecution sanction.

Both Roy and Hussain had addressed an event, Azadi — The only Way, where they allegedly made provocative speeches while discussing "separation of Kashmir from India".

Raj Niwas officials said a prima facie case is made out against Roy and Hussain for commission of offence under sections 153A (promoting enmity, 153B (making or publishing statements that promote disharmony or hatred) and 505 (making/circulating statements or rumors with intent to cause mutiny or fear among public and military personnel) of the IPC.

Significantly, sanction was not granted under Section 124A of IPC (Sedition) since the Supreme Court had on May 11, 2022, in another case, frozen all pending trials, appeals and proceedings under that law.

A Palestinian boy carries bread amid the rubble in the Gaza Strip | AFP

Netanyahu calls Modi, gets full support of India

Toll crosses 3,000; IDF launches deadly strikes on Gaza, Hamas' rockets hit Ashkelon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi to apprise him of the ground situation in Israel following the brutal attack by Hamas. Modi expressed his deep condolences and sympathy for those killed and wounded in the terrorist attacks and assured Netanyahu of India's unwavering support to Israel in these difficult times. "I thank Prime Minister @netanyahu for his phone call and providing an update on the ongoing situation," Modi posted on X, while asserting that India unequivocally condemns terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

People of India stand firmly with Israel in this difficult hour. India strongly and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

PM Narendra Modi

Hamas will understand that by attacking us, they've made a mistake of historic proportions. We will exact a price that will be remembered by them and Israel's other enemies for decades to come

Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu

According to Israel Defense Forces (IDF), the toll from the terror attack on Israel crossed 1,000 as of Tuesday. Plus, around 1,500 bodies of Hamas fighters were retrieved from Israel around the Gaza Strip, officials said. The toll in Gaza due to Israel's retaliatory airstrikes is put at 830, taking the total war death count to over 3,000.

"We are going to go on the offensive and attack the Hamas terrorist group and any other group that is in Gaza," said Brig Gen Dan Goldfus while briefing reporters in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

The fighting intensified on the fourth day with both Israel and Hamas stepping up their attacks. While Israel continued to bomb select targets in Gaza, the militant outfit fired rockets on the Israeli city of Ashkelon. Notably, Hamas issued prior warning to residents of the city to leave.

Israel's high-intensity air strikes in the densely populated enclave flattened buildings and caused thousands of residents to flee. According to reports, hospitals are overwhelmed as waves of injured Palestinians are brought in for treatment.

The IDF said it has killed two leaders of Hamas — Jawad Abu Shammala and Zakaria Abu Maamar — in an air strike in southern Gaza Strip. However, Hamas is yet to confirm this claim.

Meanwhile, in a blow to hopes of an early release of hostages, Hamas said it won't negotiate until the "end of the battle". According to initial estimates, the invading militants had taken around 150 people from Israel hostage.

Demand peaks, state to go for power rationing

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Energy Department has decided to go for power rationing as the State is facing an extraordinary situation of demand for electricity due to the failure of monsoon.

The department will soon list priority and non-priority consumers for the purpose. To overcome the shortage, the State Government has initiated steps to purchase electricity from other States.

According to officials of the department, the peak demand for October is 15000 MW compared to 12,000 MW for the same period last year. The State is facing a deficit in generation of 1500-2000 MW. "Power supply will be reduced to farmers' irrigation pumpsets. There will be restrictions on supply of electricity to consumers under schemes such as Nirantar Jyothi. There will be no reduction in power supply to industries, hospitals and other essential services. However, there will be a reduction in supply to domestic consumers," a senior official from the department told *The New Indian Express*.

Managing Director of KPTCL Pankaj Kumar Pandey said that to mitigate the crisis, all non-essential loads will be identified and power supplied on priority basis.

Additional Secretary (Energy Department) Gaurav Gutpa said nodal officers of the rank of CEE (chief executive engineer) will monitor power supply in each district. These nodal officers will monitor supply of electricity sanctioned to 220KV stations.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Date	wind	solar	Pavagada solar (generation in MU)
Sept 30	39.9	24.32	10.35
Oct 1	53.63	20.04	10.98
Oct 2	42.03	22.01	8.63
Oct 3	23.88	28.83	11.69
Oct 4	14.51	26.99	10.95
Oct 5	10.82	25.78	9.92
Oct 6	9.44	29.82	11.31
Oct 7	6.1	28.44	10.27

According to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (Bescom), the demand on October 6 was 7,386MW in Bescom limits and 3,645MW in Bengaluru city alone. On the same date, the demand in Karnataka was 15,012MW as against 9,032MW recorded during the period in 2022.

Now to meet the demand, the State is planning to purchase power. It has held negotiations with Uttar Pradesh for 300 to 600MW during pre-solar and post-solar hours from October to May 2024. CONTINUED ON: P4

UP CLOSE

SPORTS REELING UNDER CLIMATE CHANGE: IOC BOSS

INDRANEEL DAS @ Mumbai

WITH just a couple of days left for the International Olympic Committee Executive Board meeting followed by the 141st IOC Session, the Bandra-Kurla Complex here is quietly warming up to the event. There are a few temporary structures within the vicinity that's getting final touches. The accreditation counter is active in a plush hotel lobby with two genial officials helping whosoever approaches them.

The royalty of the International Olympic Committee – the executive board along with its president Thomas Bach have already landed. During a round table discussion with select media, the IOC president talked about the perils of global warming, how it is threatening the existence of Winter Olympics and how it could even lead to altering dates of the Summer Olympics.

"The climate change has already had an effect on the sport and in particular the winter sports, where the lack of snow is already leading to shifting sports indoors."

Thomas Bach

There are two ways and in the end they are complementary. One is whether to look into the scheduling for instance. Whether in the long term we can take the Olympic Games to August. I doubt it. If we move then the whole calendar of other sports (athletics, Grand Slams, ATPs) will get affected. It will be a nightmare," he said, adding that two host commissions were formed to look into this. "Now we have one commission which is dealing with the future host of Summer Games and the other Winter Games." He said these were formed some three-four years ago to see whether it is sufficient to change the sports calendar or whether it must be complemented by a stronger move. That is to move certain sports indoors. "Our focus should be on the Winter Games because there we are really impacted already. We have statistics which say that if the warming on the earth continues even at a slower pace than it was warming, by 2050 we will have lost 50 per cent of all the winter sport destinations which could organize the Olympic Games."

The IOC chief did notice India's rise at the Asian Games and alluded to the 107 medals it won. On India's potential bid for the 2036 Olympics, the IOC chief said that he could only say about it when the bid is presented. However, he said that India as a sporting nation is growing. "There is a fifty per cent increase in medals from last edition in Jakarta," he said. On India hosting the Olympics, he said since there is nothing much now he would not say much. However, he did say that India must have a strong project first.

India to get spaceport for pvt players

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) on Tuesday announced that an exclusive spaceport to launch Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs) is set to come up by 2025 at Kulasekarapattinam in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

Pawan Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPACe, said 2,000 acres have been acquired for the centre and handed over to ISRO. "The project team is in place and the budget has been set. The spaceport will be used only for private commercial purposes. No ISRO rockets will be launched from here," he added. P5

6.3%

IMF RAISES INDIA'S FY24 GDP FORECAST

IMF in July had estimated India's GDP at 6.1%. The revised forecast is lower than the RBI's latest estimate of 6.5% for the current fiscal | P13

Drought relief: K'taka govt directs all banks to restructure loans of farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government has directed all banks to restructure loans of farmers in view of the losses suffered by them owing to drought. This was decided at a special meeting of the State-Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) in Bengaluru recently.

Circulars to the heads and lead district managers of all banks in the State have been issued, according to B Parshwanath, in-charge convenor of SLBC, Karnataka.

In a letter, he stated that the meeting was convened by Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, to discuss various relief measures to be extended by banks to farmers in drought-hit areas.

The meeting deliberated on the drought notification issued by the State Government and took note of reports on loss of agricultural and horticultural crops submitted by the respective departments.

Accordingly, all banks in the State have been advised to restructure the loans of eligible farmers. They have also been advised to adhere to the Reserve Bank of India's master direction on relief measures for areas affected by drought for scheduled commercial banks and regional rural banks.

ITBP OUTREACH

ITBP personnel carry relief materials in flood-hit Chungthang, in Mangan district of Sikkim. ITBP, the army, locals and BRO are undertaking extensive operations to restore connectivity to North Sikkim through Chungthang, which was the worst affected by a glacial lake outburst and a breach in the Chungthang dam | PTI

Chinese national, Lava boss among 4 held over Vivo money laundering

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday arrested four persons, including a Chinese national and the managing director of Lava International, in a money laundering case involving phone-maker Vivo.

The arrested are Vivo employees Guangwen Kyang aka Andrew Kuang from China, Rajan Malik, chartered accountant Nitin Garg, and Lava International founder Hari Om Rai.

All the accused were held under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Vivo said the arrest deeply concerns it, and that the company will exercise all available legal options. "Vivo firmly adheres to its ethical principles and remains dedicated to legal compliance. We will exercise all available legal options," said a Vivo spokesperson.

Vivo Mobiles India was incorporated in 2014 as a subsidiary of Multi Accord Ltd, a Hong Kong-based company.

In July last year, the ED had raided Vivo and people linked with the firm, claiming to have busted a major money laundering racket involving Chinese nationals and multiple Indian companies.

After the raid, ED said Vivo had fraudulently remitted ₹62,476 crore, almost 50% of its turnover out of India, mainly to China. "These remittances were made in order to disclose huge losses in Indian incorporated companies to avoid payment of taxes in India," the ED said.

Vivo's India structure

The agency told the court that Lava's Rai, "in collusion" with others enabled Vivo, China to fraudulently establish a complex structure all over India

According to ED findings, Vivo had created a number of associated companies with the help of former directors, and used these companies to divert money out of India. The agency found 23 such associated companies of Vivo incorporated across the country. Chartered accountant Nitin Garg had allegedly helped the company incorporate these companies.

Vivo is the second largest smartphone manufacturer in the country in terms of market share. It has 17% market share behind the leader Samsung, whose share is 18%.

EXPRESS READ

Ajit Pawar describes himself as NCP chief

Mumbai: Ajit Pawar, who heads one of the factions of the Nationalist Congress Party, on Tuesday described himself as the party's national president and defended his move of joining the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government. He called Maharashtra's first chief minister late Yashwantrao Chavan as his inspiration, but did not mention the name of his uncle and NCP founder Sharad Pawar.

One-year licence for cracker shops henceforth: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the blaze at a crackers godown at Attibele on the outskirts of the city claiming 14 lives a few days ago, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said officials will inspect all cracker shops across the State and licences of errant owners will be immediately suspended. Also, to ensure strict adherence to rules, licences will be given only for one year henceforth instead of five years, he said.

QR CODE FOR GREEN CRACKERS

Green firecrackers will now have a QR code. When a customer scans it, it will give details of the company, the manufacturing lot, date and others so that they know that the product is 100% green.

Siddaramaiah said officials have been directed to take action against those selling conventional firecrackers, based on the Supreme Court's order. The court has banned all types of conventional crackers, except green ones.

Addressing the media after holding a high-level meeting with officials of various departments here, Siddaramaiah said, "The Anekal tahsildar, jurisdictional police inspector and the regional fire officer have been suspended in connection with the Attibele tragedy. Notices will be issued to the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban District and the Superintendent of Police for issuing licence to the shop without following rules." P3